

mother, and shows in the village poet a knowledge of the mother's ways as accurate as the reference to the coat-tail in describing the brother. Or we go to another house and hear the daughter of the house in dispute with her brother's wife. "Are the eyes and the nose strangers to each other, sister-in-law? My brother and I are not strangers. Oh, my brother's wife, it is because of you that *my* brother has become as a stranger to me/' Another young woman says this was her experience too. She went to the mother's house running up, thinking her mother was there; but hearing within the voice of her brother's wife she turned back near the door. Or in the street, we see a rather pretty girl and a passerby asks her: "Whose daughter are you, O my pretty doll with the eyes of a gazelle? My sister with the curling hair and of fine teeth, whose daughter are you, O good one?" And on the steps of a house nearby is a young woman sending with an acquaintance a present of some fruits for a friend; large *bore* fruit had come for sale in the street, she says, and asks him to take some of it for her friend in the neighbour's house who is pregnant.

Life in the mother-in-law's house is described in these pieces. We should remember that the pictures are of families living in the patriarchal joint family system. In such a family it may happen that the elder or younger son of the house finds fault with a sister-in-

law for omissions and commissions. The
young woman
tells us that when her husband abuses she
sheds no tears
but when his brother abuses it is as if it
rained without
any clouds at all. Or another finds life
very smooth
and exults. A husband like a prince, a
brother-in-law